

## Seeking Revival

### DAY 7—PRAYING GOD'S PROMISES

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**“Ask, and it will be given to you. Search (look for), and you will find. Knock, and the door will be opened to you.” MATTHEW 7:7**

#### **Impossible Victories Become Possible**

Jesus saved us so “that we can receive the promise of the Holy Spirit through faith” (Galatians 3:14). But how do we grow faith in Jesus’ promises? How should we pray so that we will be filled with the Holy Spirit? How does a renewed (new again) heart lead to real-life Christian maturity (full growth)?

For many years I knew about a way to worship called “praying with promises,” but for a long time I did not do it. When I found the blessings of praying God’s promises, I wanted to share them with other people. Many years ago I wrote a book called *Steps to Personal Revival*, which has a chapter about how praying Bible verses is important to our daily Christian experience. Some readers sent me their personal stories:

“I never thought I would learn this new way to pray—praying based on (starting with) God’s Bible promises, as you explained. God has given me victories in my life that I thought were impossible (cannot be done).”

“Since I learned to pray with Bible promises, my life changed. . . . My wife has noticed a big change in me. Also, I am surprised at myself.”

#### **Try It Yourself**

What does it mean to pray with promises? We choose a Bible promise or command and pray those words back to God. We trust God to do what He promised. We allow (permit) Him to lead our prayers and speak to us through the Bible. If we feel doubt (not sure)—the same as everyone feels sometime—we show the promises and accept them as God’s own word. As we fill our hearts and prayers with Bible verses, our faith becomes stronger and we know God better than before. Ellen White writes, “To erase (remove) the promises of God from the Bible would be the same as erasing (wipe out) the sun from the sky. . . . God put promises in the Bible to lead us to trust Him. God shows Himself to us and who He is in these promises” (*My Life Today*, p. 338).

The Bible clearly teaches us how to pray. First, we are told to (must) ask in the name of Jesus: “If you ask anything in My name, I will do it” (John 14:14). God also promises that He answers prayers that agree with His will: “Here is what we can be sure of when we come to God in prayer. If we ask anything in keeping with what he wants, he hears us” (1 John 5:14, 15). God shows us His will in the commands and promises of the Bible. We can trust Him to do what He promised. Verse 15 continues: “If we know that God hears what we ask for, we know that we have it.”

What does that mean? When we pray for something that we know follows God’s will, He is already answering our prayer at the same time we ask. We may not see answers yet, and usually we do not feel any difference emotionally, but our prayers are answered by faith, not by our feelings. The feelings will follow later, but for now, we trust God’s promise.

For example, I learned something when praying with people who have addiction to (given to using) alcohol and tobacco (nicotine). When they pray to be free from addiction, they may not see any change. They must accept that they are free from addiction by faith. But maybe a few hours later they notice they no longer want alcohol or tobacco. That is when they receive the real freedom from addiction they asked for in the prayer.

Ellen White writes about praying with promises. "[God] is very happy when people ask a lot from Him, so they can honor His name. People can expect (believe) big things if they have faith in God's promises" (The Desire of Ages, p. 668). "Ask for the Holy Spirit. God supports every promise He has made. With your Bible in your hands say, I have obeyed what You said. I trust Your promise, 'Ask and you will receive. Search and you will find. Knock and the door will be opened to you' (Matthew 7:7)" (*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 147).

Jesus promises, "So I tell you, when you pray for something, believe that you have already received it. Then it will be yours" (Mark 11:24). Are you praying God's promises every day? When we pray in Jesus' name and follow His will, all heaven is moved!

### **Praying God's Word**

#### **God is waiting to give us the Holy Spirit.**

"Even though you are evil, you know how to give good gifts to your children. How much more will your Father who is in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!" (Luke 11:13).

"When Jesus said this, He meant the Holy Spirit. Those who believed in Jesus would receive the Holy Spirit later. Up to that time, the Holy Spirit had not been given. This was because Jesus had not yet received glory" (John 7:39).

"We are telling people about these things. And so is the Holy Spirit. God has given the Holy Spirit to those who obey him" (Acts 5:32).

*Father God, we read that You will give the Holy Spirit to people who ask You, to people who believe in You, and to people who obey You. This is our desire. Please do this in our lives because we cannot do it ourselves (The reason we cannot do it alone (ourselves)). Thank You for filling our hearts with Your love.*

#### **God invites us to be filled with the Holy Spirit.**

"Be filled with the Spirit" or "let yourself be continually and repeatedly refilled with the Spirit" (Ephesians 5:18).

*Dear Father, teach us to continue to ask again and again for the Holy Spirit. We do not want to be without the Holy Spirit like the foolish virgins. Help us to learn the wisdom found in the Bible.*

### **More Prayer Suggestions**

**Thanks and Praise:** Give thanks for specific (exact) blessings and praise God for His goodness.

**Confession:** Take a few minutes for private confession (admit your sins/wrongs) and thank God for His forgiveness.

**Guidance:** Ask God to give wisdom for current challenges (now) and decisions.

**Our Church:** Ask God to bless the work of our local, regional, and world church.

**Local Requests:** Pray for the needs of church members, family, and neighbors.

**Listen and Respond (answer):** Take time to listen for God's voice and respond in praise or song.

### **Song Suggestions**

SDA Hymnal: Standing on the Promises (#518); Wonderful Words of Life (#286); Give Me the Bible (#272); Great Is Thy Faithfulness (#100). Other Songs: Ancient Words; Psalm 19 Song.